

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 5 and 7-15 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3, 5, 7-9 and 12 are amended, and claims 2, 4 and 6 are cancelled. The features of claim 4 have been placed into claim 1. Claims 3, 5, 7-9 and 12 have been rewritten in independent form. Additional clarifying amendments have been made to claims 8, 9 and 12. Thus, no new matter is added by the above amendments.

Applicants note with appreciation the identification of allowable subject matter in claims 3-5, 7-9 and 12-14. As noted above, the features of claim 4 have been placed into claim 1, and claims 3, 5, 7-9 and 12 have been rewritten in independent form.

Claims 1, 2, 6, 10 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 4,232,238 to Saito et al. in view of US2001/0033116 to Rose, Sr. In addition, claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over the above references and further in view of JP-A-8-85402. These rejections are moot in view of the above amendments.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe anything further would be desirable to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
Amendment Transmittal

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